

Weber Human Services' Behavioral Health Home

The Behavioral Health Home (Health Connections) has become sustainable by Medicaid enrollees and is not in need of additional financial assistance. However, the match dollars are part of the shortfall of match needed to make it sustainable. See the takeaways below.

Takeaways from Dec. 15, 2015 presentation!

1. Clients that are seriously mentally ill do not have to needlessly suffer and potentially die from physical health ailments just because their mental illness limits their ability to manage their own healthcare. We can provide them with minimal resources and see huge improvements in their mental and physical health, as demonstrated by our outcomes and other Behavioral Health Homes across the country. It is probable that we can see cost savings over time but in order to study this, point number two is needed.
2. Weber Human Services feels strongly that access to physical health data become a priority to better determine the effects that partnering efforts (such as this behavioral health home) are having on the costs associated with physical healthcare.
3. With adequate funding to support the Medicaid programs, dollars could be freed up to pay for uninsured lives that would also benefit from the services created in the public system. But without adequate funding and addressing the current match shortfall, the health home we have created over the past two years will need to be cut in FY 2017.

Pilot costs per year: \$919,056 (some of this cost is already being covered by current Medicaid dollars)

Federal Revenue from Medicaid: \$720,405 This portion is the new cost of the total cost above. Since this is new dollars that the legislative appropriation covered in the pilot project, it is this cost that we need match dollars in order to sustain the whole costs of the program.

Weber Human Services requests from the legislature, \$220,084.00. This is the match dollars needed to pull down the federal funds (\$720,405) to sustain the Healthcare Connections behavioral health home.

Thank you for funding this pilot program. It is a step in bridging gaps for whole healthcare for individuals. See physician and ACO testimonials on the following pages.

Performance Measures

The following physical health risk factors will be monitored on all Health Connections clients and performance will be measured based on reductions in these measures:

Obesity – weight/height

Cholesterol

Triglycerides

Blood pressure

Blood sugar

Smoking

Budget

WEBER HUMAN SERVICES				
Behavioral Health Home				
				FY2017
				FTE Amount
Expenditures				
Health Home Director			0.40	\$55,393
Primary Care Physician			PRN	\$7,500
Psychiatrist			PRN	\$7,500
Nurse Care Manager			1.00	\$58,931
Care Coordinator			1.00	\$84,289
Care Manager			9.00	\$429,303
Peer Support Specialist			1.11	\$7,888
Administrative Support			1.00	\$59,793
				\$710,597
Travel and Transportation				\$500
Office Supplies				\$6,500
Telephones				\$4,500
Miscellaneous Client Expense				\$4,000
Lab Work				\$500
Training				\$6,700
Furniture and Equipment				\$5,900
Liability Insurance				\$11,440
Building Depreciation				\$6,141
Building Maintenance				\$8,896
Vehicle Usage				\$37,500
Administrative Allocation				\$115,882
				\$208,459
Total Expenditures				\$919,056
Funding				
Previous Medicaid Expenditures				\$198,651
Medicaid Funding to Replace State Funding				\$720,405
Total Funding				\$919,056
Additional Funds Needed to Match \$720,405				\$220,084
(29.55% match rate plus 1% Admin Fee)				



February 1, 2016

Kevin Eastman
Weber Human Services
237 26th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

Dear Kevin:

I am writing this letter in support of your Health Connections program. This program helps to fill what I believe to be one of the main gaps in the care of our Medicaid population. This gap is the coordination of the physical health care needs of our members with their behavioral health care needs. Your program is specifically designed to address these needs through helping our members by coordinating care and helping them to navigate the system. It helps them to see their doctors, follow their doctor's orders, take their medications as prescribed, follow their diet, and in general to take care of their physical health.

In my position as Chief Medical Officer for Molina Healthcare of Utah I am able to see that many of our high cost members have associated behavioral health and substance abuse issues. We have begun to work with your team to identify our high cost members in Weber County that have these associated conditions. It is our belief that the coordination of behavioral health and physical health in these high cost members will result in a reduction in their overall medical costs. I strongly support the Health Connections program in our endeavor to work together on these challenging members. I understand that this service is for the Medicaid population, sustained by Medicaid dollars, and that Medicaid match dollars are necessary to continue this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal Gooch, M.D.".

Hal Gooch, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, Molina Healthcare of Utah

February 1, 2016

Kevin J. Eastman
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Eastman,

SelectHealth has worked with Weber Human Services over the last year to identify fragile Medicaid enrollees who struggle to meet their basic medical needs. These patients are identified as having chronic unmet medical challenges, frequent visits to local emergency departments and also have significant behavioral health needs. Weber has used its Health Connections program to reach out to these fragile individuals in order to engage them in the healthcare process, provide behavioral health care and, at the same time, better meet their medical needs by coordinating with us when medical needs are identified. As a result of this program we enjoy a highly collaborative relationship in what we consider a very worthwhile effort.

Further, SelectHealth recognizes the important contribution that programs like Health Connections brings to the care of the most vulnerable members of our community. Health Connections helps these individuals navigate our healthcare system, improving follow through with essential issues like filling and taking of prescriptions as directed. We also appreciate Health Connections' goal to teach individuals to use healthcare as it is intended, and to maintain wellness. Our mission is to help our members live the healthiest lives possible and efforts like this advance this goal. It also advances our shared goal to serve our community.

Respectfully,

Scott Whittle, MD
Medical Director of Behavioral Health, SelectHealth

Health Connections Testimonials from Other Community Providers:

Jennifer James one of the registered dietitians at Ogden Regional Medical Center stated that she is amazed in the amount of weight Health Connections clients have lost and the improved quality of life and improved self-esteem they have shown. She stated that it seems like they now have a spring in there steps. Jennifer stated that this program has had great value and she is impressed by the clients and what they have been able to do, especially with all the challenges they have to overcome in their lives.

A doctor at the Utah Digestive Health Clinic of Utah told me that without assistance from Health Connections his patient would threaten the office, call 10+ times a day and didn't seem to understand what he was saying and would get very frustrated. With the involvement of Health Connections this patient no longer makes frequent calls to his office and is better able to understand what is going on because they have another channel that not only talks with him but with their other doctors as well. He said without Health Connections this patient probably would have been discharged from services there and left to find another G.I. doctor.

A provider at the Carlton-Harrison Clinic expressed great appreciation for Health Connections care coordinators ability to help the clients have a clearer understanding of the information given to them during appointments. With the care coordinator's help the client was able to calm down and grasp the information the provider was giving and agree to the needed medical treatment.